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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/904,056	07/31/1997	TODD D. LINDSEY	450.156US1	3259
32710	7590	04/23/2007	EXAMINER	
Gateway Patent Attorney PO Box 2000 N. Sioux City, SD 57049			KUMAR, SRILAKSHMI K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2629	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	04/23/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	08/904,056	LINDSEY, TODD D.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Srilakshmi K. Kumar	2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2007.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 23,26-34,37-44 and 46-49 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 23,26-34,37-44 and 46-49 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The following office action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination filed on January 29, 2007. Claims 23, 34 and 41 have been amended. Claims 23, 26-32, 34, 37-44, and 46-49 are pending.

Claim Objections

1. Claims 47 and 48 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 47 and 48 teach the exact same limitation and depend upon claim 23. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 23, 32, 34, 41 and 47-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jasinski et al (US 5,063,289) in view of Amano (US 5,376,970).

With reference to claims 23, 34, and 41, Jasinski et al teach a mouse device (Figs. 1 & 2) for a computer (Jasinski teaches a conventional computer item 34, col. 3, lines 7-9), incorporating a multimedia device, comprising: a housing having a bottom wall for resting on and moving across a substantially flat surface during use, the housing having an upper wall extending upwardly from a perimeter of the bottom wall that defines an interior of the housing

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above the bottom wall; a mouse button disposed on the upper wall of the housing and configured to control an operation of the computer; a cursor control device (item 15) disposed on the bottom wall of the housing (Fig. 2, item 15 is underneath) and configured to detect movement of the bottom wall of the housing across the substantially flat surface such that the movement of the housing across the surface actuates the cursor control device (col. 3, lines 1-13);; a connection (col. 3, lines 1-13, item 33 is the cable that provides the signals to the computer) that transmits signals generated by the mouse button, the cursor control device and the multimedia control device to the computer;

Jasinski et al does not teach at least one multimedia control device disposed on the upper wall of the housing, the at least one multimedia control device being configured to control only the multimedia device of the computer and wherein the at least one multimedia control device directly controls at least one function of the multimedia device of the computer in a signal step and without the use of a menu or other graphic display. Amano teaches that at least one multimedia control device (33) which directly controls at least one function (channel or volume) of the multimedia device (10) in a single step and without the use of a menu or other graphic display (see column 3, line 4-column 4, line 29). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the multimedia control device and have it control at least one function of the multimedia device of the computer in a signal step without the use of a menu or other graphic as taught by Amano, to be used in the multimedia control device similar to that which is taught by Jasinski et al in order to allow for quicker controller over the multimedia device.

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As to dependent claim 32, limitations of claim 23, and further comprising, Jasinski et al teach wherein the cursor control device comprises a mouse ball extendable through the bottom wall of the housing (Figs. 1 and 2, item 15 and col. 2, lines 45-54).

As to dependent claims 47-49, limitations of claim 23, and further comprising, Jasinski et al teach wherein the upper wall of the housing comprises a top wall portion (Fig. 2, item 21) and a perimeter wall (Fig. 2, item 17) portion extending between the top wall portion of the upper wall and the bottom wall, the mouse button (Fig. 2, items 19 and 20) being disposed on the top wall portion of the upper wall. Examiner takes Official Notice that the at least one multimedia control device being disposed on the perimeter wall portion of the upper wall, and wherein the at least one multimedia control device comprises multiple actuators and at least one actuator is disposed on the top wall portion of the upper wall and at least one actuator is disposed on the perimeter wall portion of the upper wall is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that control buttons are placed on different areas of the computer mouse as the placement enables the user to easily actuate the buttons and for convenience.

4. Claim 39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jasinski et al (US 5,063,289) in view of Amano (US 5,376,970) and further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

As to dependent claim 39, limitations of claim 34, and further comprising, Jasinski et al as modified by Amano fails to teach wherein the multimedia device is integrated with the computer. The admitted prior art teaches that multimedia applications for computer typically come installed with at least one audio and/or video device, wherein it is further stated that CD-

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ROMs drives are common and allow computer users to play audio and video which reside on CD-ROMs inserted into the drive (see page 1, line 9-page 2, line1).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the multimedia device to be incorporated within the house of the computer as discussed in the admitted prior art, which can be controlled by a mouse device having direct control when controlling multimedia devices as described by Jasinski et al and Amano, in order to thereby provide a mouse device which is capable of controlling a multimedia device integrated within the computer which allows for easier control over the multimedia device to the user.

5. Claims 26, 37 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jasinski et al in view of Amano further in view of Hall (US. 6,188,387).

With reference to claims 26 and 42, Jasinski et al, as modified by Amano, teach all that is required as explained above with reference to claims 23, 32, 34, and 41. Jasinski et al and Amano fail to specifically teach that the signals from the multimedia device control and the computer cursor-positioning device are packetized as recited in the claim. Hall teaches data transmission from a mouse to a host computer (see abstract) so as to transmit mouse activity through the cable (5) whenever there is a change in the mouse. A change of state is defined as any motion of the mouse or any change in the position of either of its buttons (see column 3, lines 8-21). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the signals from the computer cursor positioning device to be packetized and transmitted to a host computer similar to that which is taught by Hall, in a system similar to that which is taught by Jasinski et al, Amano, and the admitted prior art in order to control the functions of the multimedia device at a faster rate.

With reference to claim 37 Jasinski et al and Amano teach all that is required, however fail to specifically teach that the signals from the multimedia device control and the computer cursor-positioning device are packetized as recited in the claim. Hall teaches that the signals from the multimedia device control and the computer cursor-positioning device are packetized as recited in the claim in teaching that the data transmission from a mouse to a host computer (see abstract) so as to transmit mouse activity through the cable (5) whenever there is a change in the mouse. A change of state is defined as any motion of the mouse or any change in the position of either of its buttons (see column 3, lines 8-21). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the signals from the computer cursor positioning device to be packetized and transmitted to a host computer similar to that which is taught by Hall, in a system similar to that which is taught by Jasinski et al, Amano, and the admitted prior art in order to control the functions of the multimedia device at a faster rate.

6. Claims 27-31, 38, 40, 43, 44 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jasinski et al in view of Amano as applied to claims 23, 34, and 41 above, and further in view of Schindler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,867).

With reference to claims 27 and 38, Jasinski et al, Amano, and the admitted prior art fail to teach the usage of a serial port on the computer. Schindler et al. teaches an entertainment system using a personal computer as the heart of the system wherein the personal computer contains suitable receiving circuitry, which provides indications of the keys being pressed, being a serial connection or other form of connection (see column 5, lines 34-41). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow for the computer device as taught by Jasinski et al, Amano, and the admitted prior art to include a

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serial port as suggested by Schindler et al. in order to provide a source for receiving the signals from the multimedia control and the cursor control in order for the signals to be processed for carrying out the appropriate function of the multimedia device (see column 5, lines 34-41).

With reference to claims 28, 44, and 46, Jasinski et al teaches the usage of keys (62) for providing a broad range of conventional television remote control commands disposed on the upper wall of the housing (see column 5, lines 54-55). As well known in the art, volume control is well known conventional television remote control commands. Amano teaches the usage of the controller (34) for controlling the volume of a speaker (12) located in the housing of the monitor (10) (see column 1, lines 10-20; column 2, lines 39-42). Jasinski et al and Amano however fail to specifically teach that the multimedia control device comprises a volume control slider or wheel. Schindler et al. teaches the usage of channel control buttons (916) and volume control (918), as well as thumbwheel (934). It is taught that thumbwheel (934) is used to adjusting the power of the RF signal (see column 14, lines 33-37). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the thumbwheel of Schindler et al. having the ability to be used as the volume control in the multimedia device taught by Jasinski et al, Amano, and Schindler et al. It would be obvious to allow for such modification because it is well known to those skilled in the art interchangeably using switches, buttons, sliders, wheels, trackball, etc. as input devices. This would allow for arrangement, which may be more comfortable for the user to manipulate.

With reference to claim 29-31, Jasinski et al teaches that the multimedia control device comprises multiple actuators (keys 58, 62, 66) disposed on the upper wall of the housing for directly controlling functions of tuning and other television functions (see column 5, lines 23-65,

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column 6, lines 63-68), wherein the functions are any of a broad range of conventional television remote control commands (see column 5, lines 54-55). Further, Amano teaches the usage of the mouse (20) for controlling the volume of a speaker connected to the host computer (see column 10, lines 52-53). Jasinski et al fails to specifically teach that the multimedia control device comprises multiple actuators for directly controlling functions of a CD-ROM device or speaker, wherein one or more such functions are selected from a group of conventional functions.

Schindler et al. teaches that one of the multimedia devices consist of a CD jukebox (168) and stereo-surround sound system (158) for audio output to one or more speakers (160). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the usage of the CD and speaker devices of Schindler et al. in a multimedia device similar to that which is taught in the combinations of Jasinski et al and Amano in order to provide the user with a more accessible manner for controlling the functions of a plurality of different device from one control device.

With reference to claims 40 and 43, Jasinski et al, Amano, and the admitted prior teach all that is required as explained above with reference to claim 34, however fails to teach the usage of a amplifier coupled to at least on of a speaker, radio tuner, television tuner, or an optical display player. While Jasinski et al and Amano teach a plurality of multimedia control devices for controlling different multimedia devices, there fails to be teachings of the multimedia control devices being located on different parts of the housing. Schindler et al. teaches the usage of amplified speakers (1624) (see column 21, lines 7-9). Schindler et al. also teaches a plurality of multimedia control devices for controlling a plurality of different multimedia devices wherein some of the buttons are located on the top of the housing and wherein a selection button (913) is

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provided under the housing. Moreover, location of the multimedia control devices is designer's choice, wherein it would be obvious to allow the buttons to be placed in various positions of the device for more convenient control for the user. Therefore it would have been obvious to allow the usage of an amplifier to be used in conjunction with the speakers, and to allow the placement of the control buttons to be located in different positions on the control device similar to that which is taught by Schindler et al. in a system similar to that which is taught by Jasinski et al, Amano, and the admitted prior art in order to improve the sound be emitted from the speakers when playing audio on the system.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 23, 26-32, 34, 37-44, and 46-49 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Srilakshmi K. Kumar whose telephone number is 571 272 7769. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on 571 272 3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Srilakshmi K Kumar
Examiner
Art Unit 2629

SKK
April 16, 2007



SUMATI LEFKOWITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER